

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1-9 and 14-17 are pending. Claims 1-4, 6, 9, and 15 have been amended. No new matter has been added.

Claims 1, 4-6, 7-9, 14, and 15 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite. The claims have been amended in response to the rejection and are believed to be in allowable conditions.

Claims 1, 2, 7, 9, and 15 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Sarraf. Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection.

Claim 1 is directed to a housing for electronic equipment. The claim recites, "a metal base board including a first main surface and a second main surface, said second main surface being provided at an opposing side of said first main surface, said metal base board having at least one through hole extending from said first main surface to said second main surface, said at least one through hole being configured to facilitate an outsert-molding process; a component integrally molded with said metal base board by said outsert-molding process; and wherein at least one part of a terminal part of said metal base board at one or more side walls is provided with a convex shape which is not joined to said component, said terminal part extending in a direction that is substantially perpendicular to the first main surface."

Sarraf is directed to data storage mounting assembly. Sarraf discloses a molded plastic base 10 and a sheet metal electrical ground and shield 12. These parts are not integrally molded to each other. For example, Fig. 3 illustrates the plastic base 10 without the metal shield 12. A plurality of support posts 48 are illustrated. The support posts project upwardly from the flat inside face 32 of the base 10. Accordingly, the base could not be integrally molded with the metal shield. The claimed embodiment recites a metal base board and a component that is integrally molded to the metal base board. Fig. 7 of the present application illustrates an example of such a configuration. Claim 1 is allowable at least for this reason.

The Examiner indicated that the recited "an outsert-molding process" may not be considered for purposes of patentability. Applicants respectfully disagree. It is a general rule of claim interpretation that "[E]very limitation positively recited in the claim must be given effect

in order to determine what subject matter that claim defines." In re Wilder, 429 F.2d 447, 166 USPQ 545, 548 (C.C.P.A. 1970). Subsequently, the court also stated, "...it is well established that product claims may include process steps to wholly or partially define the claimed product...To the extent these process limitations distinguish the product over the prior art, they must be given the same consideration as traditional product characteristics..." In re Luck 476 F.2d 650, 177 USPQ 523, 525 (C.C.P.A. 1973).

Applicants respectfully ask the Examiner to consider the recited feature above since it describes the characteristics of the through hole and the component. Accordingly, claim 1 is allowable for this additional reason.

Claim 2 recites, "a metal base board including a first main surface and a second main surface provided at an opposing side of said first main surface, said metal base board having a first terminal part and a second terminal part; a non-metallic component substantially covering said first main surface of said metal base board, said non-metallic component being integrally molded with said metal base board by outsert-molding; one or more side walls in which said metal base board and said component are joined, wherein said first terminal part is provided at a first edge of said one or more side walls and has a concave shape and said second terminal part is provided at a second edge of said one or more side walls and has a convex shape, said second terminal part extending in a direction substantially perpendicular to the first main surface." Sarraf does not disclose the above features. Claim 2 is allowable.

Claim 15 recites, "...a metal base board including a first main surface and a second main surface provided at an opposing side of said first main surface, said metal base board having at least one through hole extending from said first main surface to said second main surface, said at least one through hole being configured to facilitate an outsert-molding process, a component that is integrally molded with said metal base board by said outsert-molding process, and wherein at least one part of a terminal part of said metal base board at said one or more side walls is formed in a convex shape which is not joined to said one or more components, said terminal port extending in a direction that is substantially perpendicular to the first main surface." Sarraf does not disclose the above features. Claim 16 is allowable.

Claims 3, 16, and 17 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Sarraf. Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection. Claim 3 recites, "a metal base board including a first main surface and a second main surface provided at an opposing side of said first main surface; a non-metallic layer integrally molded with first main surface of metal base board by outsert-molding, said non-metallic layer being of thermoplastic polymer material; and a plurality of side walls formed by joining a vertical extension of said metal base board and a non-metallic component of thermoplastic polymer material, wherein at least one corner is formed by first and second side walls of said plurality of side walls, said first and second side walls being separated by a space." Sarraf does not disclose the above features at least for the reasons set forth above. Claim 3 is allowable. Claims 16 and 17 depend from claim 15 and are allowable at least for the reason claim 15 is allowable.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, Applicants believe all claims now pending in this Application are in condition for allowance. The issuance of a formal Notice of Allowance at an early date is respectfully requested.

If the Examiner believes a telephone conference would expedite prosecution of this application, please telephone the undersigned at 650-326-2400.

Respectfully submitted,



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